WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A computer module, said module comprising:.

2   an enclosure, said enclosure being insertable into a console;

3   a central processing unit in said enclosure, said central processing unit

4   comprising a microprocessor based integrated circuit chip;

5   a hard disk drive in said enclosure, said hard disk drive being coupled to said

6   central processing unit; and

7   a programmable memory device in said enclosure, said programmable memory

8   device being configurable to store a password for preventing a possibility of unauthorized use of

9   said hard disk drive.

1   2.   The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a host interface

2   controller for providing a status of a locking device in said enclosure.

1   3.   The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a mechanical

2   locking device that is coupled to said programmable memory device.

1   4.   The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a host interface

2   controller coupled to a mechanical locking device, said host interface controller being coupled

3   to said programmable memory device.

1   5.   The computer module of claim 1 wherein said programmable memory

2   device comprises a flash memory device.

1   6.   The computer module of claim 1 wherein said programmable memory

2   device comprises a flash memory device having at least 8 Mbits of cells and greater.

1   7.   The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a security program

2   in a main memory.

1   8.   The computer module of claim 7 wherein said security program

2   comprises a code for storing a password on said programmable memory device.

1   9.   The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a host interface

2   controller coupled to a solenoid that drives a mechanical lock in a first position to a second

3   position.

1   10.   The computer module of claim 9 wherein said solenoid also drives said

2   mechanical lock from said second position to said first position.

1   11.   The computer module of claim 1 further comprising a real-time clock

2   circuit coupled to said central processing unit.

1   12.   The computer module of claim 8 wherein said security program

2   comprises a code for checking a time from said real-time clock circuit.

1   13.   The computer module of claim 11 further comprising a battery coupled

2   to a host interface controller that includes said real-time clock.

1   14.   A method for operating a computer system, said method comprising:

2   inserting an attached computer module ("ACM") into a bay of a modular

3   computer system, said ACM comprising a microprocessor unit coupled to a mass memory

4   storage device;

5   applying power to said computer system and said ACM to execute a security

6   program, said security program being stored in said mass memory storage device; and

7   prompting for a user password from a user on a display.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 wherein said ACM comprises an enclosure that

2   houses said microprocessor unit and said mass memory storage device.

1   16.   The method of claim 14 further comprising providing a user password

2   to said security program.

1   17.   The method of claim 14 further comprising a flash memory device for

2   storing a desired password for said ACM.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 wherein said flash memory device maintains

2   said desired password when power is removed from said ACM.

1   19.   The method of claim 18 wherein said flash memory device is coupled to

2   a host interface controller that is coupled to said microprocessor based unit.

1   20.   The method of claim 14 wherein said mass memory storage device

2   comprises a code directed to comparing said user password with a desired password.

1   21.   The method of claim 14 further comprising identifying a permanent

2   password or user code on said attached computer module.

1   22.   The method of claim 21 wherein said permanent password or user code is

2   stored in said microprocessor unit.

1   23.   The method of claim 21 wherein said permanent password or user code is

2   stored in a flash memory device coupled to said microprocessor unit.